(b) and (c) For increasing the productivity and production of foodgrains, crop oriented production programmes viz. Integrated Cereals Development Programme —Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals; and National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP) are being implemented. Besides, programmes for increasing the use of fertiliser in low consumption areas and extension of irrigation facilities are being implemented to improve the production of crops.

The Schemes focus on augmenting the availability of critical inputs through subsidised distribution of certified seeds, herbicides, plant protection chemicals, improved farm implements etc. Besides, field demonstrations and farmers training programmes are organised to assist the farmers and improve their skills for adoption of rainfed production technology in respect of maize and millets as well as promoting effective control of weeds through use of herbicides.

Suggestions by CTRI

1692. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) has suggested that farmers use more potash fertilizer in tobacco cultivation to reduce tar content of tobacco;

(b) whether CTRI has conducted any experimental programmes to test this finding; and

(c) if so, the details the eof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI) has suggested to the farmers to apply only the recommended dooses of potassic fertilizers as given below:

Northern light soils of Andhra Pradesh 80-120 kg/ha depending upon the availability of potash in soil; Southern light soils of Andhra Pradesh—60 kg/ha; southern black soils of Andhra Pradesh-50 kg/ha and light soils of Karnataka-80 kg/ha.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Recommended doses have given significant reduction of total particulate matter such as smoke nicotine and carbon monoxide by exogenous application to increase leaf potash (K) content to 3.5 to 4.0 per cent. The higher dose has not indicated significant increase in yield. The CTRI has a continuing programme for safer tobacco to reduce tar content.

CM-12 Variety of Tobacco

1693. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Tabocco Research Institute (CTRI) has evolved a new variety of tobacco called CM-12 for Northern light soils in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether CM12, can be grown in areas of East and West Godaveri districts in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The FCV tobacco variety CM-12 is recommended for growing in irrigated conditions and light soil areas of East Godavari, West Godavari districts and Khammam districts of Andhra Pradesh.

High Pesticide residue of Crops

1694. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of our crops have high pesticide residue:

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to reduce pesticide residue: and

(c) the details thereof?